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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

U.S. Department of Agriculture

A Summary of the Exhibit

HOW MANY LITTLE PIGS GET TO MARKET.

A large symbolic scenic exhibit showing inevitable and avoidable losses in raising pigs from birth to market stage.

Specifications.

Floor space required - width - 9 - - - 29 feet.

depth - - - - - 8 feet.

Wall space required - - - - - None.

Shipping weight - - - - - 1292 lbs.

Electrical requirements - - - - - None.

HOW MANY LITTLE PIGS GET TO MARKET

How It Looks.

The exhibit consists of a large symbolical painted picture portraying the perils of 200 pigs from birth until they have reached the market as fat hogs.

The first scene shows the newly farrowed pigs on the farm and the next five scene show them traveling towards the stock car at the left where they enter as fat hogs. The pigs travel over a bridge 34 "weeks" long. Underneath this bridge can be seen many dead pigs which have fallen thru the "disease and accident holes" during this period.

A large placard, placed in front of the exhibit tells about the common losses in pigs; usual causes of losses; and how to prevent them.

What It Tells.

The hog grower can to a certain extent limit the death rate among his hogs. Some losses, of course, are avoidable. However, increased knowledge of animal diseases and their prevention, more careful management of breeding animals and closer attention to them at the time of bearing young will tend to lower mortality rates and be productive of greater vigor and enhanced efficiency in the feed lot.

The data used in this exhibit are based on five year's records of a hog farm under the observation of the United States Department of Agriculture, and are regarded as representative of average conditions.

Gestation Period. Total feed consumption of 27 sows from the time of breeding to the time of farrowing was prorated among 200 pigs actually farrowed from 25 of these, both dead and living pigs being considered. An average litter of $7\frac{1}{2}$ pigs per sow bred was secured.

The feed requirement per pig was approximately 140 pounds of corn, tankage, middlings, alfalfa hay and mineral balanced by the sow on self-feeders. This represented $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of feed per pig per day for the entire gestation period of 112 days. Each pig farrowed dead cost 140 pounds of feed.

Suckling Period. One hundred eighty-two pigs were farrowed alive and these represented potential market hogs.

The first 10 days are full of hazards for the new-born pig. During this period weak pigs die or are killed, accidental deaths and cripples occur, digestive disturbances, and faults of management bring the toll of loss to a point which staggers even the hog man who has yearly experienced these losses, but who has never tabulated them.

The feed cost per pig from farrowing to weaning at 10 weeks, based on feed consumption of sows and pigs, was approximately 120 pounds of mixed feed (corn, tankage, shorts, linseed meal and mineral mixture self-fed.) This represents an equivalent of $1\frac{3}{4}$ pounds of feed per pig during the suckling period of 70 days.

A pig dying at any time from farrowing to weaning represents a loss of $1\frac{3}{4}$ pounds of feed for each day which it lived.

Growing and Finishing Period: Of the 200 pigs farrowed, both dead and alive, 128 were successfully weaned at 10 weeks and began the development and fattening periods.

The feed cost per pig during the 8 weeks following weaning was 100 pounds or approximately 2 pounds of feed per pig per day.

During the second 8 weeks period the feed cost was approximately 242 pounds or $4\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of feed per pig per day.

The final fattening or finish period required approximately 388 pounds of feed or 7 pounds of feed per pig per day.

The feed loss for each pig dying therefore is cumulative from the time of breeding the sow until the death of the pig. The determination of these costs by actual feeding and health records shows that 14 $\frac{3}{10}$ per cent of the total feed consumption was expended for pigs which failed to reach the market.

Included in the figures of total feed consumption are the feed of the sows which farrowed (figured from the time of breeding to the weaning of the pigs) the feed consumed by the sows which were bred but failed to farrow, and the total feed consumed by all of the pigs.

Where To Get Information

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C:

Farmers' Bulletin 1437 Swine Production.

Farmers' Bulletin 1244 Diseases of Swine.
